

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember an Inland Empire resident and an excellent public servant, Lois Carson.

Lois was a beloved member of my community and a passionate advocate for childcare, education, and welfare reform.

Lois served as the president of the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees while I served on the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees. I have fond memories of working with her at trustee conferences where we would collaborate on improving the lives of Inland Empire students.

During her 30 years as the executive director of Community Action Partnership of Riverside County, Lois provided services for low-income residents. Under her leadership the agency ran successfully and received the first public sector Community Action Agency award for excellence in 2005.

The Inland Empire was fortunate to benefit from Lois Carson's many talents, and I am honored to have known her and believe that her legacy will live on in the many lives she touched.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WALTER STRAKA

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Private Walter Straka.

At 17, Walter lied about his age to serve in the Army National Guard. In 1941, his unit, the 194th Tank Battalion, arrived in the Philippines just months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

After the fall of Bataan in 1942, Walter and his comrades were forced on a brutal 65-mile trek now known as the Bataan Death March.

During the march, Walter was forced to walk in intense heat and subjected to appalling abuse at the hands of the Japanese army.

By Walter's own account, he should have been dead a thousand times, but Walter not only survived this 6-day march, he also survived 3 years as a prisoner of war before returning home to Brainerd, Minnesota.

Once home, Walter ran a successful business, raised a family, and was an active member in his community.

Walter Straka died this year at the age of 101. With his passing, the State of Minnesota said good-bye to its last survivor of the Bataan Death March.

Private Walter Straka is an American hero whose unforgettable story has inspired me and so many others.

Our Nation is stronger because of his exceptional service and courage.

CONGRESS MUST ACT

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, last week marked a year since our country lost a giant and a friend to all, John Lewis.

Republicans and Democrats of both Chambers rightfully used our platforms to memorialize a man who gave so much, and as many say, he was the conscience of our caucus.

Mr. Lewis nearly lost his life at the age of 25 to those on the other side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge in March of 1965 as he nonviolently protested voter suppression laws.

And he dedicated the rest of his life to justice, equality, and protecting the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, 66 years later we are again on that bridge. Seventeen States have passed 28 laws to make it more difficult to exercise our constitutional right to vote.

We must act.

So I say to my colleagues that stand in the way of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, would you also have stood on the other side of that bridge?

Mr. Lewis understood we could not wait for those on the other side of the bridge to join us. We must secure, protect, and expand the right to vote for all Americans to truly honor Mr. Lewis' life, legacy, and our democracy.

ADDRESSING THE CUBA CRISIS

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will now address the Cuban crisis just south of our border.

Cuba is, of course, a very progressive Marxist state. The government runs the economy with all the restrictions of freedom; that means there is no freedom of press.

The State Department International Religious Freedom Report shows numerous violations of freedom of religion as believers in God are harassed. There is no freedom of movement. And now with protests, people are disappearing.

How does the United States respond? There was a Free Cuba mural put up in Washington, D.C., and the mayor of our Nation's capital responded by saying that it was said in the past that Cuba has an education system we should learn from, and the mural disappeared.

I beg President Biden to do what he can to restore internet service so the people in Cuba can communicate with each other. Please don't lift the embargo. And above all, provide a little bit of moral leadership and show that you are opposed to the Marxist cabal to the rest of the world.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIANS FROM NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, ahead of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, to recognize the Olympians from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, the largest HBCU in the Nation, located in my district in Greensboro, North Carolina.

It gives me great pride to recognize Trevor Stewart and Randolph Ross, Jr., who will represent the United States on the track and field team.

Randolph Ross, Jr., a sophomore, is competing in the men's 400-meter and the 4x400-meter relay, and Trevor Stewart, a senior, will compete in the men's 4x400-meter relay.

Two other Aggie runners will compete in the Olympic track and field events. Akeem Sirleaf will compete for Liberia, and Daniel Stokes will compete for Mexico.

With all four of these young men qualifying, the entire Aggie 4x400-meter relay team will run in the Olympics.

I also recognize NC A&T director of track and field programs, Duane Ross. Coach Ross' leadership has propelled his team forward to success.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the athletes and coach on this tremendous achievement. On behalf of North Carolina's Sixth District, I am sending them the best of luck in Tokyo. Go, Aggies.

CELEBRATING PURPLE HEART HOMES

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Today, the Purple Heart Homes nonprofit is celebrating their 750th completed project.

Headquartered in Statesville, North Carolina, Purple Heart Homes is a nonprofit founded by combat-wounded veterans to help aging and service-connected disabled veterans in their housing needs.

Founded in 2008 by John Gallina and the late Dale Beatty, they established Purple Heart Homes with a mission to help those that have given so much to our Nation.

Whether it is building ramps or constructing new homes, they step in to fill the void in programs designed to serve our deserving veterans.

I congratulate John and his diverse team on their incredible accomplishments to serve our heroes.

I recently met with John and his team, and while they have unique backgrounds that they bring to this mission, they are all united by one thing: They are called to serve.

I congratulate John and his team, and I also congratulate Purple Heart Homes.

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THE ALLIES ACT OF 2021

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1